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IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

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PRESS

Editorial Comment

VOTE NEXT TUESDAY

Next Tuesday, August 6, is primary election day. The contest is for the Democratic nomination to a six-year term in the Senate of the United States. The candidates are the incumbent, Harry Flood Byrd, and Martin A. Hutchinson, ..mond attorney.

The issues of the campaign have been adequately discussed, and no doubt voters have made up their minds. There is little doubt as to the outcome, regardless of how you vote, we urge you to go to the polls and vote. It should not be necessary for someone to have to come and haul you to the voting place. Go yourself. And go early, for a storm or something else may come up in the afternoon to make ... easy to decide not to bother. In a democratic nation you are free to vote your own convictions, but democracy is weakened when the citizens fail to vote.

This paper is glad to support the candidacy of Senator Byrd.Just as we disagreed many times with the late beloved President Roosevelt, so have we frequently disagreed with Senator Byrd. But we supported Roosevelt and we support Senator Byrd because we believe in the great ability of each of them as leaders.

We do not support Senator Byrd as a friend to the farmer, to the working man, to the veteran, to tax-payers, to the South, or to any other group. We support him, rather because we believe he is a sincere and upright public servant of long experience, a level head and good common sense. We believe that he honestly and without fear or favor studies the duties of his job, and acts according to his conscientious convictions. If those convictions are not like our own, we nevertheless admire him for his intellectual honesty and political forthrightness. We hope that we shall never permit ourself to support or oppose a man merely because he is for or against some particular legislation or group in which we are selfishly interested. Our nation already has too much of that. We need in Washington more men who are not spokesmen for either capital or labor, either rural or urban America, either this or that group, but rather men who can and will bring a free and open mind to each issue as it arises and take an open stand on each issue without prior regard to what group is sponsoring it. Such men sometimes vote with labor, sometimes against labor, sometimes against him, and so on down the roll-call of all groups. There is always a bumper crop of "yes men"; there is a scarcity of those whose acts are subservient only to courage and conviction. The late S. L. Ferguson once said of Harry Byrd that he was "upright, downright and all right." That's good enough for us.

THEY FIGURE IT OUT

The thing that impresses us most about the Pacific atomic tests is the phenomenal manner in which the scientists can figure out in advance what is going to happen.We are playing with fire, experimenting with a fabulous thing; a misstep might wreck civilization;yet thus far the scientists come up with the right answers. This assures us that the scientists know what they are doing and are to be trusted.

HOLDING UP

Be it recorded that a year after the end of the fighting, the economy of our community is holding up to war-time levels. Money in circulation is, if anything, more plentiful. There are jobs and the pay is good. Our crops are good.

The Lord has indeed been merciful to us and abundantly blessed the toil of our hands.

TAKE IT EASY

When industry went too far in sheer ruthlessness, the people of America demanded a leadersnip of state institutions and foster private enterprise, if we are to increase our numbers slowly yet steadily until a desirable optimum of perhaps 160,000,000 is reached, ...ese we have changed from a predominantly agricultural nation, with a balanced effect on the urban birth rate. If we are to preserve democratic